



Gainesville Camellia Society

Affiliated with the American Camellia Society

Editor: Anna Langford

May 2021

President's Message



Nita McRae

Hi GCS Members!

Happy May! Did April showers bring May flowers? Well, maybe, but we could use a few more showers now that the heat has been turned up a bit. The camellias DID produce loads of beautiful new growth, most of which has since hardened off. Despite my applications of Orthene, the beetles damage is more than I wanted, especially on the potted camellias I am growing to sell at our next show. There is a huge beetle population in my yard and one night several years ago I killed almost 90 beetles on just one large camellia plant! I see more and more species of native plants (weeds) being fed on by these beetles. They just move from one plant to the next when the new leaves are right for them. Unfortunately, I have not noticed any feeding on the poison ivy! Maybe John Swanson can give us an update on the results of the control method he is trying.

It is time to make a second application of fertilizer to help feed the next flush of growth. This application is usually half of the application amount made earlier in the year. Watering is very important right now and for the remainder of the summer unless we are blessed with monsoon quality rains like we have had during the past two summers. Newly planted camellias should be watered at least twice a week if there is no rain. Some of our really serious camellia growers water these new plants daily! A little much, maybe, but whatever works for you.



Rose Bouquet



Marilyn Maphis

So, what's happening in the camellia world? Still not a whole lot, unfortunately, no thanks still to Covid. As mentioned in our April Newsletter, John Swanson hosted the Second Annual Air Layering Extravaganza at his home on Friday, April 23. I was in attendance along with several other camellia enthusiasts. John had it all very well organized and a good time was had by all. Plus, there was a tasty lunch along with good conversation. Maybe John will give us a rundown of the event. For those familiar with air layering, there is still plenty of time to air layer. My last air layers are usually made in early August. Roots appear in about 6 months or so these rooted branches can then be cut from the mother plant and potted in February or March.

Our next meeting, at 2:00 PM on May 16th, will be the last GCS Zoom meeting before the 3-month summer break. Hope you all can join us. Even if you join us but do not say anything, that is ok. If you have flowers or other related things to show to the group, please do. Remember to sign in on Zoom a bit early using the following link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82300009553?pwd=UGJBSSStGU3RZMCM9WMXNmc0dJdXV5QT09>

Meeting ID: 823 0000 9553

Passcode: 216049

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Harriet and I have been in Boston from May 6-11 to see Harriet's daughter graduate from Northeastern University. It has been cooler than I prefer, but we had the opportunity to see a second spring. The parks are full of tulips, daffodils, and other flowers. It was fun but I am ready to be back in the Florida heat! Guess I need to stop writing and get it to Anna so she can do her magic and turn it into part of another beautiful newsletter. So, take care, hope everyone is well, and I look forward to seeing you on May 16th at 2:00 PM!

Cheers,

Jerry Hogsette, President



Veiled Beauty

Minutes for GCS Meeting – April 18, 2021

EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM

The meeting via ZOOM was called to order at 2:07 p.m. by our President, Jerry Hogsette. There were 15 members digitally present.

The meeting started with the Educational Program. Hawser Pearce introduced a recorded talk by Randolph Maphis entitled “Best Reticulatas”. The video portion was broadcast well, but the audio portion was inaudible. Hawser had seen the recording so many times that he proceeded to narrate. Members were treated to spectacular images of recent and established Reticulata hybrids developed by some of the greatest camellia experts of our era, including the Gordys and John Wang, along with many blooms by Randolph. Some truly outstanding blooms included Lake Erhai Pearl, Redheart, which has red stamens, and Faultless Jade which has a green center. Hawser did a great job of recalling many details of the talk and engaging members in commentary and brief discussions.

The audio portion of recorded talks should be working for our final Zoom meeting in May.



Florence Stratton



Kay Berridge

BUSINESS MEETING

Jerry started the business meeting at 2:26 p.m. with the Treasurer’ report.

OLD BUSINESS

Treasurer’s Report

Merry Reid sent this updated Treasurer’s report to Jerry Hogsette:

Checking total = \$3,629

Savings total = \$15,202

Overall total = \$18,831

We still have enough funding to cover two major shows. Bill Hayes moved that we accept the Treasurer's Report. John Swanson seconded the motion and it passed.

Hawser Pearce moved that we accept the March 2021 minutes. Deborah Ellis seconded the motion and it passed.

Jerry reported that he attended the Wilmot Gardens plant sale along with Bill Hayes, Irma Velez and John Swanson. They sold 75 air-layered plants donated by John and Jerry, which will net the GCS \$750. The plants were in great shape and sold themselves!



*Professor Charles S. Sargent
May 6, 2021*



C. Edithae

Jerry reminded everyone that it's beetle season. The leaf-eaters leave camellia plants with "lacey" leaves but otherwise don't hurt the plant. However, it makes them harder to sell. Jerry reviewed the use of the spray-on systemic pesticide "Biphenthrin", which is widely available. Bill Hayes said he gets the concentrate from Helena Chemicals locally. Jerry uses Orthene which will not hurt "good" bugs.

John Swanson reported that the systemic granules he uses are too costly for large plants at \$49/can. He's used 10 cans so far. However, the product may to be cost effective for small potted plants. He'll keep updating us.

Hawser asked if liquid Sevin (Carbaryl) would work on the beetles. Jerry replied that it would, but the beetles would need to eat part of the leaves.

NEW BUSINESS

Anna Langford has completed updating the membership list. If anyone would like a digital copy, just ask Anna via email at anna@langfordmail.com.

Diane Simon reported that there are still a few GCS positions open for next year. Seven members of the Board have agreed to stay on, which leaves three openings. The Board meets once in the summer to discuss ideas to present to GCS membership. Anyone who would like to be a Board member can email Diane at dianecsimon@yahoo.com.



Betty Sette

The position for Program Director is also open. Charles Simon suggested that members with colleagues and friends that would be willing to present relevant talks could make contact and arrange for the Program Director to schedule a presentation. The Director could also present talks recorded via ZOOM by the American Camelia Society. These two changes would make the Directorship position more manageable. Members thought these were good ideas. Anyone interested in the position of Program Director should contact Diane before the May 16, 2021 meeting. We would like to have all positions filled by the end of the May meeting.



Cherries Jubilee

John Swanson reminded everyone that he's hosting a camelia air-layering event and pot-luck lunch at his place this Friday, April 23, 2021, starting at 9:00 a.m. He sent lists of available plants and items needed for air-layering to everyone and so far has 16 people that are planning to attend. He would like to air-layer an additional 125 plants for the GCS.

John told us that he's invited Ms. Amy Puccio from the Alachua County School District "Grow Hub" program to attend the air-layering event and will provide her with materials and support to air-layer 12 plants.

Mona Rippe informed the group that Grow Hub employs and trains people in the nurseries field. She said this was a very good program which supplies employment and skills to people who need them. They also sell plants in great condition for discounted prices.

John Swanson told us that Chuck Ritter also wants volunteers who know how to air-layer to come to his property and propagate his plants, including show plants! He will no longer travel to camelia shows and would like his prize plants to be out in the community.



Georgia Fire



Henry Parrish, variegated

Final Comments

Richard Mohr reported from Maryland that they have beautiful camelia blossoms in their garden which are still blooming nicely, including Royal Velvet, Bev Piet's Smile, Dr. Clifford Park and Crimson Candles. He showed us some nice pictures of winter blossoms on plants with snow all around! This was a marvel for some the native Floridians in our group. All he does for cold protection is cover the base of the plants with pine needles. The low this recent winter was 15°F. The plants are very cold hardy.

There was some discussion of the large camelia tree in Dresden, Germany that has a greenhouse on railroad tracks that covers the tree in winter. This was the ultimate winter protection versus Richard's pine needles!

The meeting was adjourned at 3:11 pm and A
GOOD TIME WAS HAD BY ALL!

Charles Simon, Secretary



Maroon and Gold

Photos of flowers are from the garden of John Swanson.

Air Layer Day 2021 at John Swanson's



Patrick Andrews, Diane Simon, John Swanson, Charles Simon, Bob Weidman, and Jerry Hogsette

Amy Puccio of Gro Hub



Jerry Hogsette and Sandra Overstake

Ron Stevens and Deborah Engquist



Patrick Andrews and Bob Weidman



John Brunner



Announcements

We are in need of volunteers for the Board of Directors. At present, we have seven Directors, and we need ten. The Board usually meets once a year at the end of the summer. If you are interested, please contact either Diane Simon <dianecsimon@yahoo.com> or Jerry Hogsette <jhogsett@bellsouth.net>.

We have an updated membership list with contact information. If you would like a copy, please email Anna Langford <anna@langfordmail.com> and she will send it to you.

Date and place of meeting

May 16, 2021

Via ZOOM at 2pm

Dues

The annual dues for Gainesville Camellia Society are due at this time. The amount is \$15 for an individual or \$20 for a couple. Please mail a check for your dues to the Treasurer:

Merry Reid
7631 Monongahela Avenue
Keystone Heights FL 32656

merryreid@outlook.com

If you have purchased any plants, please send a check for your purchases to Merry also.

Gainesville Camellia Society has joined social media!

Search “Gainesville Camellia Society” to find our Facebook page. There you will find photos, tips on growing camellias, special activities, announcements of future meetings and guest speakers. “LIKE” us on Facebook to receive GSC updates, and tell your friends about our Facebook page.



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1st VP & Show Chair: Debbie Ellis
2nd VP & Program Chair: Hawser Pearce
Treasurer: Merry Reid
Secretary: Charles Simon

Board Members

Patrick Andrews
Jay Ellis
Cathy Martin
Bev Ritter
Chuck Ritter
Diane Simon
John Swanson
Irma Velez
Carter Wittman

Monthly Meeting of the Gainesville Camellia Society

Date: Sunday, May 16, 2021, at 2pm

Place: via ZOOM (See invitation in the President's Message.)

The Gainesville Camellia Society meets at 2 pm on the third Sunday of each month from September through May via ZOOM. Any changes to meeting dates, times, or venues are posted in this newsletter.



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Editor: Anna Langford

April 2021

President's Message



Leaf Beetle and stamp to show small size

Hi GCS Members!

Happy April! April showers bring May flowers. Well, maybe, but at least we finally got some April showers last weekend to get things started. You must be under the clouds to get rained on and my house managed to be under the clouds long enough to get a total of 3 inches on April 10-11. Plants are producing flushes of new growth at slightly different times and rates. Some plants have completed this first flush, others are just beginning, and others are somewhere in between.

And with this new delectable growth come the pesky black seed beetles to make holes in these leaves. Chemicals produced by the new growth on camellias and a variety of other plants, e.g., Virginia Creeper, attract these small, nocturnal beetles which feed, attract mates, copulate and produce eggs to make the next generation. These beetles become active about 9:00 PM and can be spotted sitting on the surface of new leaves. After the new growth hardens off, the beetles are no longer interested in feeding, and move to other host plants with new growth. The beetle damage at my house has been minimal, but the camellias will produce a second flush of new leaves sometime between now and late May. This will again attract the beetles and usually there will be larger numbers of beetles in May than there are now.



Leaf Damage

These beetles produce only cosmetic damage and do not adversely affect the health of the plants or the flowers. But if you have small plants and want to reduce this damage there are things to try. John Swanson is evaluating a product called Bayer Tree & Shrub Insect Control, which is applied to the roots as a drench. This product is too expensive to apply to very many large plants in the ground, but for small plants in the ground or in pots, it should be ideal if it works well. Maybe John can give us an update on his project during our meeting. The product I have used for years (when I use it) is called Orthene or Orthenex when it is sold together with a fungicide. I just bought a generic brand called Systemic Insect Control. The active ingredient is Acephate and that is what kills the bugs no matter what brand name is on the bottle. The Bayer product and the Acephate are both systemics, which means the toxic part of the product is taken into the plant's circulatory system and moved mainly to the new growth. Only the insects or mites that eat the leaves are affected. Insects or mites merely walking across the leaves are not affected. I am sending Anna a couple of beetle photos and maybe she can find a space to put them in the Newsletter. Some of this information was mentioned in the March Newsletter, but the beetles had not yet made an appearance in my yard.



Camellia Edithae

On April 9 and 10, the Annual Spring Plant Sale was held at Wilmot gardens on the UF campus. Between John Swanson, Irma Velez, and me, 81 camellia plants were donated for the sale. Of these, 75 plants were sold. John Swanson, Bill Hayes, and I managed the camellia sales on Friday and Irma Velez and I manned the sales on Saturday. A photo taken by Bill of me and John is in the newsletter.

So, what's happening in the camellia world? Not a whole lot, unfortunately, thanks to Covid. It is time to air layer plants and John Swanson is again hosting what could become an annual Air Layering Extravaganza at his home on Friday, April 23rd. During the meeting, I will ask John to confirm this date and talk about what is in store for those who wish to air layer his plants. For those not familiar with air layering, the simple technique allows the production of roots on camellia branches in about six months or so. These rooted branches, called air layers, can then be cut from the mother plant and potted. This is a quick way to produce and acquire new plants.



Jerry and John man the camellia sales booth at Wilmot



Cherries Jubilee

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Guess I need to stop writing and get it to Anna so she can do her magic and turn it into part of another beautiful newsletter. So, take care, hope everyone is well, and I look forward to seeing you on April 18th at 2:00 PM!

Cheers,

Jerry Hogsette, President

Our next meeting, at 2:00 PM on April 18th, will be the fourth GCS Zoom meeting of the new year. Hope you all can join us. Even if you join us but do not say anything, that is ok. If you have flowers or other related things to show to the group, please do. Remember to sign in on Zoom a bit early using the following link:

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Meeting ID: 823 0000 9553

Passcode: 216049



Georgia Fire

Minutes for GCS Meeting – March 21, 2021

EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM

The meeting via ZOOM was called to order at 2:02 p.m. by our President, Jerry Hogsette. Due to a schedule conflict, Jerry introduced John Swanson as our guest speaker to start the meeting.

John displayed over 80 fantastic photographs he took of Camellia blooms in his garden, providing historical notes and origins for many. Blooms included Sandra Williams, developed and registered by GCS member Jay Ellis. He also showed striking images of six distinctly different blooms from one Les Marbury plant, as well as a bloom of Strawberry Lime Aide which had green tips on deep pink petals. Many more beautiful images and commentary were enjoyed by members. John agreed to allow the images to be used to produce additional bloom posters to support our plant sales.



Mollie Moore Davis



Dusty

BUSINESS MEETING

Jerry started the business meeting at 2:34 p.m. and welcomed returning member and professional colleague Sanford Porter. There were a total of 14 members digitally present.

OLD BUSINESS

Treasurer's Report

Merry Reid sent this updated Treasurer's report to Jerry Hogsette:

Checking total = \$2,874

Savings total = \$15,202

Overall total = \$18,076

We still have enough funding to cover two major shows. John Swanson moved that we accept the Treasurer's Report. Sanford Porter seconded the motion and it passed.

Debbie Ellis moved that we accept the February 2021 minutes. Carter Whitman seconded the motion and it passed.

NEW BUSINESS

Anna Langford is still compiling an updated member list. Last year's list is available. If anyone would like a digital copy, just ask Anna via email.

Diane Simon told the group that she would seek replacements for any GCS positions that are vacated this year, but otherwise will assume the club agrees with making this a bi-year due to Covid-19.



Mary Alice Cox



Ray Gentry, Variegated

Jerry Hogsette told the group that Hawser Pearce will be stepping down from program chair after three incredible years. Hawser was thanked and congratulated by members for his diverse educational presentations that really opened up the GCS Educational Program. His replacement will have a tough act to follow! Anyone who's interested in this position should contact Diane Simon. We need to fill it by our May meeting.

Jerry reported that he and John Swanson continue to sell air-layered plants and will provide a total of 50 plants to Wilmot Gardens for their April 9-10, 2021 plant sale. GCS members are invited to help out at the sale. Just get in touch with Wilmot Gardens to volunteer. Jerry will check on the hours of the sale and let everyone know.

Charles Simon reported on the search for plant tags. He showed the group four different aluminum tags:

1.75" x 4.0" tags by AM Leonard recommended by Jay Ellis

1.5" x 3.5" tags by Amekron used by GCS in the past

1.0" x 3.25" tags by Amekron used by GCS exclusively for many years

0.75" x 3.0" tags by AM Leonard used for last year's plant sale

The AM Leonard tags are noticeably thinner than the Amekron tags, and are also cheaper.

Everyone agreed that the smallest tags were the least desirable. The heavier Amekron tags are preferred by some members, but the larger AM Leonard tags are preferred by others. Charles will keep looking for Amekron tags at a lower cost, and will bring all tags to the first GCS meeting next year so members can decide.



Grace Ward



Rosea Superba

Once a tag type is selected, Charles will buy 10,000 for use by the club over the next several years. All boxes of tags purchased for evaluation will be used for our plant sales and for distribution to members. Jerry Hogsette requested 250 tags for immediate use, and Sanford Porter requested 50 tags. Charles will drop off 300 of the larger AM Leonard tags at Jerry's house.

Jerry reminded everyone to watch out for leaf-eating beetles that emerge in Spring. He recommended Orthene spray for treatment, which lasts about 3 weeks. This should cover the initial emergence as well as the follow-on egg hatch.

Final Comments

Several members asked if Jerry and John have updated lists of available plants. They will circulate the updated lists this month. Jay Ellis reminded us that he has ~100 plants in 2 gallon pots that are ready for sale.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:08 pm and A
GOOD TIME WAS HAD BY ALL! 😊

Charles Simon, Secretary



Linda Brothers Blush

Photos in this newsletter are from the garden of John Swanson.

Air Layering at John Swanson's

On Friday, morning, April 23rd, another Air-Layering Event will be held at the Swanson home. We will assemble at 9:00 A.M, and the first item on the agenda is a demonstration on how to air layer camellias. Then members can begin air layering the plants that they have identified as desirable. It is suggested that five air layers per person would be a good number to try to achieve. After that members can help air layer other plants that will be used to sell at future GCS shows or events to raise funds for needs of the Society.

Interested members should call or text John Swanson to confirm that you are coming, and which plants you plan to air layer. (352) 672 2644.

This will again be a pot luck event for lunch to be shared at noon. The host will provide drinks and meat. Members should bring a side dish, salad, or desert.

A separate document lists what is needed to air layer and identify your plants. Also attached is a list of plants members can review to decide which ones they might want to air-layer.

<i>Date and place of meeting</i>	
April 18, 2021	Via ZOOM at 2pm
May 16, 2021	Via ZOOM at 2pm

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Editor: Anna Langford

March 2021

President's Message



Growth Buds Popping

Hi GCS Members!

Happy March! Seems like yesterday (at the February meeting) that we were talking about if and when to fertilize camellias. Hopefully sometime since then everyone has fertilized. I was talking about watching for the growth buds to pop, and Hawser was saying don't wait, get the fertilizer out so it will be there when the plants need it. After the meeting ended, I went outside and looked at some of the growth buds on some of the plants and they looked like they could start to grow very soon. So, I took Hawser's advice and put out the fertilizer the following weekend! Soon after that on March 2nd, we had two inches of rain and the fertilizer was washed into the soil. It doesn't always work that way, but this time it did. Meanwhile the growth buds have popped, and the azaleas have been blooming beautifully. Some people asked what I meant by popping buds (different than popping corn) so I sent Anna a photo of growth buds popping and maybe she can find a spot for it in the newsletter.

After the new leaves begin to grow, the small, black seed beetles begin to appear after dark to make holes in the leaves. Last year I had few if any beetles until the second flush of growth in late May. Then the beetles struck with a vengeance! In a few days most of the leaves looked like Swiss cheese! These beetles are not found everywhere in the environment and some people fortunately do not have them in their yard. The leaf damage is merely a cosmetic effect and does not hurt the blooms or the plants. However, the plants do look a bit unsightly and if the plants are to be sold, they need to look their best. This is why John Swanson is trying a Bayer liquid fertilizer/pesticide product to see if it will kill the beetles; and will it kill them before they damage the leaves? The product is applied to the soil as a drench and the pesticide is picked up by the roots and transported mainly to the new growth. A single application lasts for a year. Hopefully this will work, and we will all have a simple method for protecting potted camellias. The Bayer product is relatively expensive, and it would cost a fortune to use it to protect many large plants in the ground.



Miss Charleston showing great moire



Rose Bouquet

So, what's happening in the camellia world? Not much unfortunately. Even in a 'normal' year, shows in our area would have been finished around the first or second weekend in March. I am a member of the three regional camellia societies, The Atlantic Coast, the Gulf Coast and the Southern California Camellia Societies, and stories in their journals tell of activities by member societies in their regions. It is the time of year when grafting has usually been completed, air layering activities can continue, and the growing of established and new plants begins. Some varieties will show tiny new flower buds towards the end of May.

Our next meeting, at 2:00 PM on March 21st, will be the third GCS Zoom meeting of the new year. Hope you all can join us. Even if you sign on and do not speak, that is ok. If you have flowers or other related things to show to the group, please do. Remember to sign in on Zoom a bit early using the following link:

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Edithae

Just another reminder that John Swanson and I are still selling camellia plants to GCS members or anyone else who wants to buy them. These are plants that would have been sold last January if we had had a show. They are ready to plant and there is still time to get them planted before spring growth and summer heat. I sold eight last week. Please contact us if you need a plant list.

Guess I will wrap this up and get it to Anna so she can do her magic and turn it into part of another beautiful newsletter. I look forward to hearing from Charles Simon about the status of plant tags for sale. So, take care, hope everyone is well, and I look forward to seeing you on March 21st at 2:00 PM!

Cheers,

Jerry Hogsette, President

Minutes for GCS Meeting – February 21, 2020

BUSINESS MEETING

Note: Prior to the start of the meeting Jay Ellis once again showed us a dozen truly spectacular blooms from his gardens, including a formal double sport of “My Diane” that he intends to name “Deborah Ellis”.

The meeting via ZOOM was called to order at 2:06 p.m. by our President, Jerry Hogsette. There were 14 members digitally present. There were no new members attending the meeting this month. In his opening comments Jerry reminded us that it’s time to fertilize and prune. He suggested we get the cat out for pruning calibration!

Jerry thanked Anna Langford for her continued production of our high-quality “GCS Newsletter”, including outstanding photography by John Swanson!



Ellen Daniel, Red



Barbara Colbert

OLD BUSINESS

Charles Simon reported that there were no additions to the minutes. Bill Hayes made a motion to accept the minutes as published. John Swanson seconded the motion and it passed.

Charles reported that a recent web search for aluminum plant tags showed many options, including tags by Amekron that look exactly like the tags we’ve used in the past. Prices for 1 inch x 3 inch tags range from \$12-\$25 per hundred.

A lively discussion of plant tag options commenced with comments from most attendees. John Swanson reported that he's trying plastic tags with three different marker types: paint pens, indelible Sharpies, and grease pencils. Charles Simon suggested that he place samples in direct sunlight for a few months to see if they degrade. Other members commented that the plastic tags themselves only seem to last a couple years.



Cherries Jubilee



Dixie Knight Supreme

Jerry Hogsette reminded us that cut up aluminum cans make decent plant tags. Jay Ellis likes the larger AM Leonard aluminum tags and recommended that we try them. They come in packs of 500. He sprays them with Rustoleum neon orange paint so they're easy to find even on large plants. It was agreed that Charles would purchase six different types of aluminum tags, including the larger tags from AM Leonard, and report back to the group with samples and comments.

Treasurer's Report

Merry Reid sent this updated Treasurer's report to Jerry Hogsette and he included it in the President's comments in this month's newsletter.

Checking total = \$2,344

Savings total = \$15,202

Overall total = \$17,456

We still have enough funding to cover two major shows. Debbie Ellis moved that we accept the Treasurer's Report. John Swanson seconded the motion and it passed.



Mary Alice Cox



Mini Pink

NEW BUSINESS

Charles Simon asked the group to discuss the effect Covid has had on GCS members serving in Show positions, as Officers, and as Board members with respect to term limits. He suggested we consider exempting this year from the term limits. A discussion followed in which members present agreed that this was a good idea, especially for Show staff. Hawser Pearce suggested that we publish the idea in the next newsletter and ask members for comments. Jerry Hogsette agreed to address this in the “President’s Comments” in the next newsletter and ask all members for comments via email. The discussion will continue after comments are received.

John Swanson and Jerry Hogsette have been selling air-layered plants all season via the web and pickup, including 20 plants this week by Jerry. Most plants have been sold for \$10. John said the next sales event at Kanapaha would be in October for the Fall plant sale.

John also reported that Dr. Tisher from Wilmot Botanical Gardens called to tell him they’re having a Camellia plant sale on April 9-10, 2021. He asked if GCS would like to sell some of our air-layered plants and split the proceeds. Jay Ellis commented that this was a standard arrangement for plant sales. After talking with Jerry Hogsette and Charles Simon, they decided to deliver a total of 50 plants in 2 gallon pots to sell for \$20 each. Diane Simon asked how the sale would be arranged. John said the last sale was via the web with pickup only at the Gardens. Jerry will check on this, and ask for GCS volunteers to help if needed. All GCS attendees agreed to support Wilmot Botanical Gardens with this sale.



Tudor Baby, Variegated

EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM

Hawser Pearce introduced a ZOOM lecture by Mark Crawford on pruning Camellias. The lecture was recorded and made available by the American Camellia Society (ACS). He said the ACS website has many videos like this one.

The video started playing nicely through Jerry's ZOOM host connection, but without sound. The audio track could not be activated so the attempt was aborted. Hawser and Jerry will practice this operation and try again next meeting.



Camille, Variegated



Harold Paige

Educational dialogue among members followed covering Camellia pruning using the cat standard (should be able to throw a cat through the pruned branches!), and Hawser reminded us that even dramatic pruning of large plants can be extremely beneficial.

John Swanson reported that he's trying a granular systemic pesticide that is absorbed through the roots for beetles and will keep us informed on its efficacy.

Jerry and Jay Ellis discussed air layering times and success rates. Both agreed that generally air layers will take in about six months no matter what time of year they're set. A few plant varieties are very stubborn and can take 12-18 months to develop roots.

Final Comments

Anna Langford said she will update the GCS member list, including email addresses, and send to all members.

Jay Ellis needs help re-potting 90 air-layered plants and harvesting over a hundred air-layered branches.

Jerry reported that he finally used up the rooting powder he purchased in 1980 and is looking for more. Jay said this product is available in 2.5 pound bags that we could purchase and distribute to members. Charles Simon will try to include a sizable rooting powder purchase along with sample plant tags.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:16 pm and *A GOOD TIME WAS HAD BY ALL!* 😊

Charles Simon, Secretary

Photos in this newsletter are from the gardens of John Swanson and Jerry Hogsette.

<i>Date and place of meeting</i>	
March 21, 2021	Via ZOOM at 2pm
April 18, 2021	Via ZOOM at 2pm
May 16, 2021	Via ZOOM at 2pm

Dues

The annual dues for Gainesville Camellia Society are due at this time. The amount is \$15 for an individual or \$20 for a couple. Please mail a check for your dues to the Treasurer:

Merry Reid
7631 Monongahela Avenue
Keystone Heights FL 32656

If you have purchased any plants, please send a check for your purchases to Merry also.

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Search “Gainesville Camellia Society” to find our Facebook page. There you will find photos, tips on growing camellias, special activities, announcements of future meetings and guest speakers. “LIKE” us on Facebook to receive GSC updates, and tell your friends about our Facebook page.



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1st VP & Show Chair: Debbie Ellis
2nd VP & Program Chair: Hawser Pearce
Treasurer: Merry Reid
Secretary: Charles Simon

Board Members

Patrick Andrews
Jay Ellis
Alan Hyde
Cathy Martin
Bev Ritter
Chuck Ritter
Diane Simon
John Swanson
Irma Velez
Carter Wittman

Monthly Meeting of the Gainesville Camellia Society

Date: Sunday, March 21, 2021, at 2pm
Program: “Camellias A to Z” by John Swanson
Place: via ZOOM (See invitation in the President’s Message.)
Program Chair: Hawser Pearce

The Gainesville Camellia Society meets at 2 pm on the third Sunday of each month from September through May via ZOOM. Any changes to meeting dates, times, or venues are posted in this newsletter.



Gainesville Camellia Society

Affiliated with the American Camellia Society

Editor: Anna Langford

February 2021

President's Message

Hi GCS Members!



Borom's Gem

Happy February! Can you believe it? Time marches on and so has the colder-than-normal weather. A few days ago I took plants that really need protection out of the garage for the first time since December 16, 2020. About 20 of those plants are orchids, and with the on-again-off-again cold snaps we've had since late December, I did not want to move them in and out every few days! They have enjoyed the recent warmth and rain. But we still have one more bout of mid-30s weather forecast for the 19th and 20th (unless the forecast changes). We are so lucky weather-wise. If you have been watching the bulge of arctic air that has been pushing south through the Plains states during the past week, the extreme cold is unbelievable! Almost 40 below zero in North Dakota today. Only Florida and Southeast Georgia remain in the 60s or above. Oh well, the next thing you know someone will be complaining about the heat!

So, what's happening in the camellia world? Not much on the East coast as far as shows go. There have been a few. Covid has kept most camellia folks at home staying safe. And speaking of that, I hope that all eligible and consenting people have been able to start the vaccine series. Availability has increased significantly in the past few weeks. I will have my second shot on February 19 through the University, but there are several places to get the vaccine now, including Publix, Wal-Mart, some of the pharmacies, the Palm Medical Group, and of course the Alachua County Health Department.



Cherie Shirah



Helen Beach

Our next meeting, at 2:00 PM on February 21st, will be the second GCS Zoom meeting of the new year. Hope you all can join us. Even if you sign on and do not speak, that is ok. If you have flowers or other related things to show to the group, please do. Remember to sign in on Zoom a bit early using the following link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82300009553?pwd=UGJBSSStGU3RZMCM9WmXNmc0dJdXV5QT09>

Meeting ID: 823 0000 9553

Passcode: 216049

If you click on the link above that begins with "https" the meeting should load. I included the meeting ID and password just in case you cannot get on with the link, but you probably will not need them. Several people sign on 10 to 15 minutes early just to chat. As a reminder, this link never changes from meeting to meeting, so if you can find a Newsletter from September 2020 up until this one, you should have the correct link.



Midnight, variegated

During the last meeting Hawser tried unsuccessfully to show us a video which did not work because of Zoom and internet problems. Hawser and I had a casual zoom meeting a few days after the January meeting and hopefully we have solved the zoom problems. Cannot do anything about the internet problems! Unstable internet seems to be a problem for many of us for some reason. Changing to hard-wire fiber optics cable here at the house did not solve the problem.

Just another reminder that John Swanson and I are still selling camellia plants to GCS members or anyone else who wants to buy them. These are plants that would have been sold last month if we had had a show. They are ready to plant and there is still time to get them planted before spring growth and summer heat. Please contact us if you need a plant list.

Merry Reid sent a Treasurer's report. Checking: \$2,343.92; Savings: \$15,201.71; Total: \$ 17, 545.63.

Had hoped to finish this and it to Anna sooner, but one of our members dropped by to pick up some plants and we took a tour of my camellia jungle. After the 'official' part of the last meeting was over, several of us stayed online to socialize a bit while consuming our choice of liquid refreshment and some snacks. So be prepared to relax and chat for a while if you have the time. So, take care, hope everyone is well, and I look forward to seeing you on February 21st at 2:00 PM!

Cheers,

Jerry Hogsette, President



Royal Velvet

Photos from Last Year's Flower Show (January 2020)



Recognize anyone?



Information desk and plant raffle

Minutes for GCS Meeting – January 17, 2020

BUSINESS MEETING

The meeting via ZOOM was called to order at 2:05 p.m. by our President, Jerry Hogsette. There were approximately 15 members digitally present. Jerry welcomed new members Alex and Malia. Alex participated in the recent air layer potting party at John Swanson's garden.

Note: Prior to the start of the meeting Jay Ellis showed us a dozen truly spectacular blooms from his gardens. Everyone agreed that we should show more blooms via ZOOM!



Scentuous



Spring Daze

OLD BUSINESS

The \$200 memorial contribution to the American Camellia Society in the name of Dinh Swanson has been sent by Merry Reid.

Treasurers Report

Merry Reid sent this updated Treasurer's report to Jerry Hogsette:

Checking total = \$1,889

Savings total = \$15,202

Overall total = \$17,091

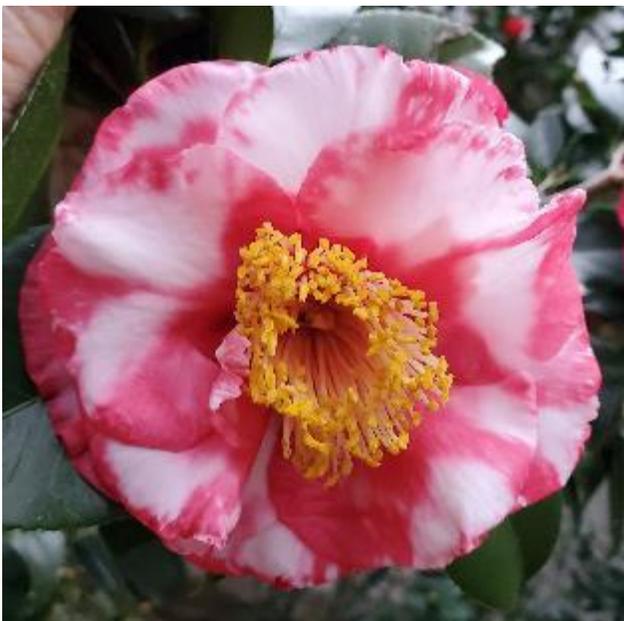
This leaves us enough funding to cover two major shows.

Jerry was contacted by an Extension agent (Tom) about camellia plants for sale. He and John Swanson will send Tom the current list of available air layers, many in two and three gallon pots. Jerry has just finished up-potting all of his air layers into 3-gallon pots. John Swanson reported he's in the process of up-potting 2-year air layers. Charles Simon volunteered to drop off 3 gallon pots to Jerry.

Richard Mohr and his wife relayed their experience of a recent visit to Wilmot Gardens on a bright sunny day. The Gordy plants were in great shape and full of blooms! There were few people in the Gardens and it was a very enjoyable visit. They encourage other GCS members to visit.



Frank Houser, variegated



R.L. Wheeler, variegated

John Swanson reported that Wilmot Gardens director Dr. Tisher selected a wonderful location next to a walkway to plant the "Rose Bouquet" camellia in memory of Dinh. A plaque in her memory will be placed with the camellia. Bob Weidman and Patrick Andrews brought the 7-gallon plant from County Line Nursery to John's house full of blooms! John also saw the Gordy plants in Wilmot Gardens when he visited and remarked on the good health of the larger plants that were transplanted using a large tree spade.

Hawser Pearce reported that his plants are full of blooms, even Reticulatas! He showed us a bodacious "Candy Apple" blossom!

Jerry Hogsette mentioned that brown spots on blooms caused by the fungus *Botrytis* are less prevalent this year than in past milder winters and this may be due to the cold days this winter. Jay Ellis had the same observation on his blooms and agreed that the colder temperatures are limiting this pestilence this winter.

John Swanson reported that he's using "Protect and Feed" by Bayer to control leaf beetles. Jerry commented that this approach should protect the plant leaves and control reproduction of the beetles in the soil, especially in potted plants.



Julia



Satsuma Kurenai

A motion was made by Hawser Pearce to accept the December 2020 meeting minutes. The motion was seconded by Debra Ellis and passed.

A motion was made by Charles Simon to accept the Treasurer's report, was seconded by Hawser Pearce and passed.

EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM

Hawser Pearce introduced Dr. Jerry Hogsette as the guest speaker today. Jerry presented a “Camellia Trivia” PowerPoint with a look-back on Camellia Societies and the ACS yearbook from the late 1940’s to this century. These included many pictures and comments on famous past members like Hulyn Smith, Sandra Williams, Roy Wilmot and Paul Gilly. Mr. Gilly named many camellia species for his family members and neighbors, like “Terry Gilly”, “Mark Chason” and “Wendy” to name a few. Gilley used a mixture of Georgia red clay and whole peanut shells to grow incredible plants.



Tama Electra



Valentine's Day, variegated

Leaf beetles were mentioned in the 1948 ACS yearbook. Tip-grafting was also described in a yearbook from this era. Jerry showed a picture of a “Doris Ellis” blossom from this era named by Jay Ellis’ father, and several pictures from a visit to Nuccio’s Nurseries in California.

Jerry told the group that the first GCS show was held in 1953 and had 464 blooms. Other shows held in North Florida during that same time period had up to 6,500 blooms! Bloom size definitions have changed over time along with a proliferous of species. He showed pictures from meetings early in this century and ended with some from our own 2020 show.

Hawser Pearce next attempted to show a PowerPoint from Mark Crawford’s recent trip to the International Camellia Society in France but experienced technical difficulties and was unable to share the presentation.

Charles Simon reminded everyone that Diane Simon would be contacting members soon to request serving on the board and in other volunteer positions, and urged members to consider participating in these fun extensions of GCS meetings.

The meeting was adjourned by Jerry at 3:00 pm and a social ZOOM chat visit followed. Digital wine was served and a good time was had by all!

Charles Simon, Secretary

Photos in this newsletter are from the garden of John Swanson.

Dues

The annual dues for Gainesville Camellia Society are due at this time. The amount is \$15 for an individual or \$20 for a couple. Please mail a check for your dues to the Treasurer:

Merry Reid
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 Carter Wittman

Monthly Meeting of the Gainesville Camellia Society

Date: Sunday, February 21, 2021, at 2pm
Program: “Pruning” – a ZOOM presentation by Mark Crawford
Place: via ZOOM (See invitation in the President’s Message.)
Program Chair: Hawser Pearce

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Gainesville Camellia Society

Affiliated with the American Camellia Society

Editor: Anna Langford

January 2021

President's Message



Ray Gentry, variegated

Hi GCS Members!

Happy New Year to everyone. We can all hope that 2021 will be a better year and that the Covid-19 virus will soon be under control. Usually the January newsletter is full of stories about our recent camellia show, but since we did not have a show there is nothing to report! I have talked with a couple of people in our group who have had some beautiful blooms but no show to take them to. It always seems to happen that way.

We have really been having some up and down weather temperature-wise. The jet stream, which usually keeps the really cold weather north of us, has dropped to the south in the past few weeks and the cold fronts have been penetrating all the way down the state. We spent Christmas and New Years in Key West with friends and when the temperature dropped to 58 one morning all of the Key West locals were freezing! Having grown up in Miami, I remember those rare frigid 60-degree mornings. It was in the mid-20s a morning or two here in Gainesville, but the camellias look fine.

Dinh Swanson's Memorial Service was held via Zoom on Friday, January 8th. It was such a nice service with a video starting when Dinh was a youngster right up until recent times. There was quite a large number of people in attendance from Europe to California. A very nice tribute to a lovely lady.



Minato Do Akebono



Cilie Sutton

It is already almost the third week of January 2021! Hard to believe! Our next meeting, at 2:00 PM on January 17, will be the first GCS Zoom meeting of the new year. Hope you all can join us. Even if you sign on and do not speak, that is ok. If you have flowers or other related things to show to the group, please do.

Remember to sign in on Zoom a bit early using the following link:

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Meeting ID: 823 0000 9553

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During the last meeting Hawser tried unsuccessfully to show us a video which did not work because of internet problems. This seems to be a problem for many of us for some reason. We have hard-wire fiber optics cable here at the house and still get kicked out of Zoom meetings on occasion.

John Swanson and I are still selling camellias to GCS members or anyone else who wants to buy them. They are ready to plant and now is a good time to put them in the ground. Please contact us if you need a plant list.



April Tryst



Tricolor Superba

Must finish and get this to Anna, who reminded me yesterday that she needed a President's message so she could work on the newsletter. The first three weeks of the months really fly by.

At the end of the November meeting, it was mentioned that after the official part of the next meeting is over, we should continue to visit over our choice of liquid refreshment and some snacks. So be prepared to relax and chat for a while if you wish to do so. Hope everyone has managed to stay safe and well over the holidays! Several close friends have had colds, and fortunately nothing worse than that! So, take care and I look forward to seeing you on January 17th at 2:00 PM!

Cheers,

Jerry Hogsette, President

Minutes for GCS Meeting – December 20, 2020

BUSINESS MEETING

The meeting via ZOOM was called to order at 2:03 p.m. by our President, Jerry Hogsette. There were approximately 20 members digitally present.

OLD BUSINESS

The \$300 partial reimbursement checks to the four major GCS growers have been mailed with a note of gratitude.

There was no update on a new source for good quality aluminum tags for the plants.



China Doll



Grand Slam

Treasurers Report

There was no update to the Treasurer's report. A reprint of the last report is presented below.

Checking total = \$2,619

Savings total = \$15,201

Overall total = \$17,820

NEW BUSINESS

Anna Langford made a motion that \$200 be donated to the American Camellia Society in the name of Dinh Swanson. Harriet Hogsette seconded the motion and it passed unanimously. Jerry will ask Merry Reid do this.

A member reported that he'd gotten information on the logistics for The Friends of the Library on-line sale and pickup. Jerry Hogsette will discuss this further by email.



Miss Lillian



Charlean, variegated

The use of credit cards for payment was again discussed by the group. One suggestion was to use a service for accepting credit card payments using a cell phone or other portable device(s). For now, we'll continue to require a check or cash at the pickup. (Secretary's note: Three years ago this was investigated and found to be too costly at about \$2000 for our 500 plants.)

Jerry Hogsette and John Swanson reported that their air-layered plants are for sale, and some are blooming, like Laura Walker. John needs help with potting about 160 air layers soon. The plants will be labelled. He'll send out an email when the date is decided.

John thanked the group for their condolences on the loss of his wife, Dinh. His daughter Megan's employer will donate a camellia tree, at her selection, to plant in Dinh's name. A 7-gal Rose Bouquet from Tommy Alden at County Line Nurseries will be brought to Gainesville by Patrick Andrews for the Swansons. Our heartfelt sympathies are with John and his family.

Larry Hice asked members if he could come and harvest some blooms to bring to Hospice. He has very few blooms on his plants at this time. He's looking to fill 20 bud vases. John Swanson said he would have some for him this Thursday (12/24/20). Debbie and Jay Ellis said Larry could come by and get blooms anytime as they have hundreds every day. Cathy Martin also volunteered blooms for Larry.



Bob Hope, variegated



Bev Piet's Smile

Hawser Pearce reported that he tried to show how Christmas trees are produced and harvested at our last meeting, but technical difficulties prevented the presentation. There was no presentation for today's meeting.

Carter Wittman asked the group how to harvest two-foot-tall seedlings under her "Mrs. Abbey Wilder." Hawser advised her to dig as deep as she could around each plant about 6-8 inches out from the stem. John said they may be root suckers, which she could clip at the main root, leave in the ground for one year, then dig up. If they are seedlings, she should trim the tap root to about the same length as the top of the plant.

Jerry reminded the group that an easy way to reach any member is to send a message through the “Reply All” feature to one of his emails to the club. That way every member will get the note and the person(s) you want to reach will respond.

Cathy Martin shared with the group that she’s going to the Mayo Clinic for treatment of a mass in her stomach. She urged us all again to wear masks and to take the new vaccine, it’s a new technology that is very safe. Members of our club have lost friends and family. We have a good drug cocktail but it’s too expensive and generally not available, except for politicians! We all wished Cathy well with her treatment and members pledged to keep her in their prayers.



Rev. John Bennett

A brief discussion of the “Star of Bethlehem”, the once in 800 year’s maximum conjunction of Jupiter and Saturn, followed. The event occurred at dusk the day of the meeting (12/20/20) in the southwest sky and was worth watching where the sky was clear.

Jerry Hogsette gave a parting piece of advice to members who have plants with scale. Spray with a soap solution made of 1 teaspoon of dish soap to one quart of water (0.5%). Spray again after two weeks. Best to do this now before they spread in the Spring.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:56 pm.

Charles Simon, Secretary

Photos in this newsletter are from the garden of John Swanson.

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December Work Day at the Swansons

Workers potted up about 130 air-layers for a future sale.



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Monthly Meeting of the Gainesville Camellia Society

Date: Sunday, January 17, 2021, at 2pm
Place: via ZOOM (See invitation in the President’s Message.)

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Gainesville Camellia Society

Affiliated with the American Camellia Society

Editor: Anna Langford

December 2020

President's Message



Grand Marshal, variegated

Hi GCS Members!

Happy December! Fall and maybe a little bit of pretend winter have been in the air with the passage of two cold weather systems since our last meeting. On my property nighttime temperatures reached freezing or close to freezing on both occasions. Frost can form at 37 degrees on plants not protected overhead, e.g., under trees, so many tender plants were covered during those cold snaps.

By now most if not all of us have heard about the untimely passing of Dinh Swanson. Dinh was on a ladder picking oranges in her yard, probably something she had done many times before. She somehow fell in a way that produced injuries that were ultimately fatal. We have many wonderful members in the Gainesville Camellia Society (GCS) and we all value each and every person. But Dinh was very special. She had an outgoing personality and she was not afraid to let you know what was on her mind, usually in a benevolent manner. Dinh was very active in the GCS and played a major role as Chair of the Hospitality Committee during the past few years. She and her committee members made sure that there was plenty of hot coffee and tasty snacks available when judges and GCS members arrived to enter and place blooms in the early morning hours of our camellia shows at Kanapapha Botanical Gardens. Dinh has left us but she will not be forgotten.



Dinh with Wilamina



White Empress

It is already December! Where has this year of self-isolation gone? Our next meeting, at 2:00 PM on December 20, will be the fourth Zoom meeting and the last GCS meeting of 2020. Remember to sign in on Zoom a bit early using the following link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82300009553?pwd=UGJBSSStGU3RZMCM9WMXNmc0dJdXV5QT09>

Meeting ID: 823 0000 9553

Passcode: 216049

If you click on the link above that begins with https the meeting should load. I included the meeting ID and password just in case you cannot get on with the link, but you probably will not need them.

During the last meeting we discussed some of the features of the icons that appear along the edges of the screen when a zoom program is in session. It was during this interaction that I realized that there are several versions of the Zoom program being used by various GCS members. There is nothing wrong with this, but program features change as newer versions of Zoom come to the market. Most of these features are fun, such as changing the way the screen is viewed, but few are critical to the operation of the program. The two most important features are turning your video and sound on and off. If you know how to do that, everything else should be ok. Hint: red microphone and camera icons at the lower left of the screen (usually).



Silver Waves



Tama Vino

More camellia blooms are beginning to open. Like every year when we expect camellia varieties to bloom in an expected form within an expected time frame, the camellias did not get the message! My Shibori Egao usually has blooms from solid pink to solid white and all combinations of pink and white together. This year the flowers are essentially all white. Some have a small amount of pink, but none have been mostly pink. Lady Clare usually waits until after New Year's Day to bloom, but not this year. One limb of my Gustav Gerbing, a medium to large rose semi-double, has opened a beautiful full anemone bloom! Will it do it again? Must wait until next year. Diane Simon stopped by yesterday to 'buy' a Shibori Egao plant. If you have blooms to show or stories to tell, please talk to us at the next GCS meeting and show us what you have. This is just one more fun feature of a Zoom meeting.

Must finish and get this to Anna, who reminded me earlier in the week to get this to her early so she could begin working on the newsletter. Hope I am not too late. At the end of the November meeting it was mentioned that after the official part of the next meeting is over, we should continue to visit over our choice of liquid refreshment and some snacks. So be prepared to relax and chat for a while. We usually have a party in December, and this could be it! Look forward to seeing everyone on December 20th! Hope everyone is safe and well!

Cheers,

Jerry Hogsette, President



Tama Americana

Minutes for GCS Meeting – November 15, 2020

The meeting via ZOOM was called to order at 2:04 p.m. by our President, Jerry Hogsette. There were approximately 15 members digitally present.

OLD BUSINESS

Charles Simon made a motion to distribute \$300 partial reimbursement checks to the four major GCS growers. Diane Simon seconded the motion. Some discussion followed. Bill Hayes pointed out that good potting soil is available from Blooming House nursery for \$50/cubic yard. Jerry Hogsette said he was making his own potting soil mix with 90% ground pine bark and at most about 10% sand.



William Penn



Dautel's Supreme

Jerry will ask Merry Reid to mail the checks with a statement encouraging recipients who don't need the funds to pass them on to a charity. The intention is for GCS to show tangible, sustainable support for major growers who are responsible for a large portion of our annual plant sale profits.

A new source for good quality aluminum tags for the plants has still not been found. Cattle ear tags were used long ago but they failed over time. GCS members will continue to look for a source.

Some of his plants are in pure pine bark and are being treated as hydroponic plantings. He will transfer plants to two and three gallon pots for the first time this year.

It was generally concluded that the support amount will cover a significant portion of the cost of potting soil and fertilizer. There being no further discussion, Jerry Hogsette called for a vote on the motion. The group voted on and passed the motion.



Desert Moon



Adolphe Audusson

NEW BUSINESS

Jerry Hogsette asked the members if they had any exciting blooms to report. This led to a lively discussion where many plants were reported to have spectacular blooms. Most sasanquas were loaded with blooms. Some of the many plants with blooms discussed included Tanya, Lady Clare, Mathotiana and its sports, Purple Swirl, Frances Council, Lilian Gordy, Catherine Beavis, Delores Edwards, Sparkling Burgundy and Leslie Ann. Air layers with blooms included Sandra Williams, Nuccio's Cameo, Yuletide and Kanjiro.

Treasurers Report

Merry Reid reported the following summary to Jerry Hogsette:

Checking total = \$2,619

Savings total = \$15,201

Overall total = \$17,820

There will be some additions to these amounts as members pay their annual dues and on-line plant sales continue.



Fred Sander, variegated



Enchanted Evening

A continued discussion of exciting blooms led by Hawser Pearce and John Thrasher followed. All of their Sasanquas were in full bloom, including Alabama Beauty, Leslie Ann, Mine no Yuki and others.

Jerry Hogsette held up the latest American Camelia Society (ACS) journal with a picture of their new building on the cover. He reminded everyone of what a good deal it is to join the ACS. Members get free passes and big discounts to other Gardens across the country.

Mona Rippe said the Gainesville Garden Club could host a GCS drive-through Camellia plant pickup, and suggested that this could go in the Kanapaha Newsletter. She also told us that the Florida Museum of Natural History did a similar plant sale with pick up. They posted their plant names with pictures and prices on the web. John Swanson suggested we do the same on our Facebook page.

Margaret Wagner reported that the Friends of the Library had a “Bag of Books” sale with pick up and she’ll check on their logistics. Charles Simon suggested that we could do this every year for our GCS air layered plants.

Hawser Pearce mentioned that it might be difficult to get UF to cooperate with promoting the sale and suggested that GCS buy an advertisement on Google for the plant sale, and consider other sites to host the sale, like a church lot. Springhill was also mentioned as a possible location.



Strawberry Limeade

Hawser Pearce then introduced the guest speaker for the day: Doctor ZOOM! (A.K.A. Jerry Hogsette)

Jerry walked everyone through all of the ZOOM functions and capabilities that users have. He explained every icon as he held our digital hands through an informative walk in the world of ZOOM. It was truly informative and FUN! Margaret Wagner showed us how to use the background feature and put any picture you want on screen. Everyone loved that feature!

Jerry reported that the ACS is recording PowerPoint presentations that we can see using the “share screen” function. We may be able to use this resource during the December 2020 meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:07 pm and a good time was had by all.

Charles Simon, Secretary

<i>Date and place of meeting</i>	
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January 17, 2021	Via ZOOM at 2pm
February 21, 2021	Via ZOOM at 2pm
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May 16, 2021	Via ZOOM at 2pm

Dues

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Keystone Heights FL 32656

If you have purchased any plants, please send a check for your purchases to Merry also.

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 Cathy Martin
 Bev Ritter
 Chuck Ritter
 Diane Simon
 John Swanson
 Irma Velez
 Carter Wittman

Monthly Meeting of the Gainesville Camellia Society

Date: Sunday, December 20, 2020, at 2pm
Place: via ZOOM (See invitation in the President’s Message.)

The Gainesville Camellia Society meets at 2 pm on the third Sunday of each month from September through May via ZOOM. Any changes to meeting dates, times, or venues are posted in this newsletter.



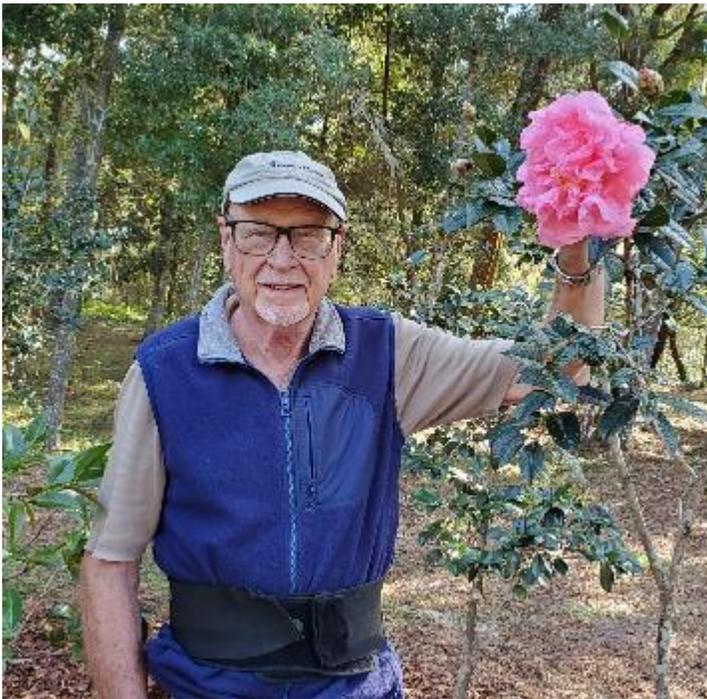
Gainesville Camellia Society

Affiliated with the American Camellia Society

Editor: Anna Langford

November 2020

President's Message



Chuck Ritter with ungibbed "Phil Piet Pink"

Hi GCS Members!

Happy November! Fall is NOT in the air with daytime temperatures still in the mid to high 80s, still plenty of rain, and daylight shifted to mornings producing early evenings with the end of Daylight Savings Time. This time of year, I usually only see my camellias in the mornings before work or on the weekends.

Have not heard from any of our members lately (except the ones I occasionally run into at the Haile Publix), except for Anna who would like me to finish this sooner than I will. It will definitely be sooner than last month. Received an invitation to judge at the Pensacola show (as did Patrick and some others) and I was very surprised to hear that the Pensacola society will be holding a live show despite the looming potential for Covid transmission!

I thanked them profusely for the invitation but let them know that we had already cancelled our January 2021 show and that I would be unable to attend theirs. Hope everything goes ok, especially in reference to Covid. Pensacola has a nice show and it would be a good one to see if you have an opportunity in the future.

Sasanquas and other species are still opening – Showa-no-sakae, Sparkling Burgundy, Shishi-Gashira, Chansonette, Snow, Yuletide, Kanjiro, Apple Blossom, Alabama Beauty, October Magic Orchid, Daydream, and Leslie Ann. A few early Japonicas have been opening – Kathryn Bevis, Frances Council, Debutante Variegated, Mark Chason Variegated, and Early Autumn. I have tried unsuccessfully to make myself do some gibbing. Maybe next week. Some of the buds on some varieties are much larger than usual, and multiple buds on some stems of many varieties is quite common this year.



Pink Icicle



Sparkling Burgundy

We again have our upcoming meeting scheduled, via Zoom, at 2:00 PM, Sunday, November 15.

The information needed to join the meeting is:

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82300009553?pwd=UGJBSSStGU3RZMCM9WMXNmc0dJdXV5QT09>

Meeting ID: 823 0000 9553

Passcode: 216049



Bobby Fain Variegated

As of today (Nov 7) there is a soon-to-be tropical storm, which may develop into a hurricane, roaring towards Cuba and the Keys, and then heading north into the Gulf of Mexico. We should get some rain and hopefully nothing more. It should be over or almost over by the time you read this. If you can beat the rains, it might be a good time to do one last fall fertilizer application, especially if you have young plants. Find a bloom fertilizer and apply as directed on the package. Bloom fertilizer (any kind) should be relatively low in nitrogen and should not stimulate the production of new leaves. However, the other two major components, phosphorus and potassium, will aid in flower production and quality, and stimulate root growth.

You should only need to click on the link above that begins with https and the meeting should load. I included the meeting ID and password just in case you cannot get on with the link, but you probably will not need them. Sign on about 1:55 or earlier so you will be ready by 2:00. If you are still new to Zoom, you can sign on even earlier and check out the various things you can do on Zoom, like changing the screen view, and using the chat, testing you sound and so on. Test out the Speaker View. This causes the video of whoever is speaking to be the largest on your screen.



Star Above Star

What else can we be doing in our camellia gardens right now? Disbudding (picking off extra flower buds) should continue. This is particularly painful to do with small plants, but it is best for the plant. I have seen lots of scale on some of my plants, especially those that have grown dense over the summer. Reduced air flow through your plants creates great opportunities for scale to develop quickly and undisturbed. Thin out plants if necessary or simply cut off leaves that have turned snow white on the under sides. There might be some residual spider mite populations here and there, but the heavy summer rains have kept them at bay by washing them off the leaves. Populations can develop over the winter months especially if the weather gets dry. Watch for rusty colored areas down the middle of the leaves on the top surface. Small populations can be treated with soapy water. Populations on larger plants can be reduced or eliminated by a strong spray of water over the entire plant.

Cheers,



Ashton's Ballet

Jerry Hogsette, President

Minutes for GCS Meeting – October 18, 2020

The meeting via ZOOM was called to order at 2:03 p.m. by our President, Jerry Hogsette. There were approximately 15 members digitally present. The meeting started with Hawser Pearce introducing our guest speaker, Patrick Andrews, and his topic “Landscaping with Camellias.”

Patrick and Hawser started by telling us that the National Camellia Society has links to relevant talks by other speakers. Patrick was on the list and volunteered to deliver a live presentation for the GCS October meeting. He’ll help Hawser connect with the National speakers.



Winters Fancy



Edna Bass

Patrick started his presentation with the most important aspect of landscaping: have a plan! A well-landscaped yard will present a more attractive property that will sell faster at an increased value.

Decide if you want a formal or an informal layout. Use a mix of other plants with camellias. Start by marking out planting and walking areas with string or other material. Remember to include sitting spaces where benches or chairs can be placed.

Patrick showed us a number of beautiful examples of landscaped areas with Camellias at Wilmot Botanical Gardens and private properties. Sasanquas, and even Japonicas, make good hedges. Reticulatas are best on their own and will grow into trees. If you don't prune Reticulatas they can look spectacular. He showed examples of Chuck Ritter Reticulata plants in full bloom that truly were spectacular!

Patrick also discussed the different flower and foliage types to consider when deciding on Camellia placement. The best flowers form in plants with 50-70% shade, but you can grow Camellias in full sun. Red flowers do better than pink and white flowers in full sun.



Autumn Moon



Purple Swirl

He spent the last part of the talk listing the major diseases and pests that attack Camellias, and the best treatments. For die-back, prune the affected limbs. Use copper solution for scab. For spider mites use oil twice, two weeks apart. For chewing beetles and scale, use oil 2-3 times. For aphids, use soap solution. Flower blight is spread by water droplets and by bees. Don't forget to disbud plants, leaving only one or two buds per branch for most Japonicas and Reticulatas. Apply gibberellic acid 4-6 weeks before you want the flower to bloom.

OLD BUSINESS

There are still no plans to have an annual Show and Plant Sale in January 2021.

Treasurers Report

Merry Reid reported the following summary to Jerry Hogsette:

Checking total = \$2,619

Savings total = \$15,201

Overall total = \$17,820

Anna Langford reminded everybody to send in their dues to Merry Reid (her address is in the GCS September Newsletter), and corrected a statement in the September Newsletter by telling us that couples dues are \$20 and *individual dues* are \$15.



Sandra Williams

NEW BUSINESS

Charles Simon discussed reimbursement of our club air layer growers for hired labor and material used to produce our sale plants. Jay Ellis said he had 50 plants in 2 gallon pots ready for sale this year and he would like to recover \$10 per plant for his labor and material. The group agreed that this was a very good value for plants that would sell for \$25 or more. This value set the bar for our growers who will contribute hundreds of plants in 2-3 gallon pots to our annual sales.

Jerry Hogsette reported that he has sold 15 plants so far and will step up his air layers into 2 gallon pots in January. Call Jerry before this time to get his air layer plants for less in one gallon pots. Members reported that other groups are having plant sales with pickups.



Mark Chason

Patrick told us that the ACS revised its website and is now easier to use. This was accomplished with the help of a monetary donation from leftover funds in the disbanded Jacksonville Camellia Club which were donated to the ACS.

The group discussed how to get more members to join our SUPER-FUN ZOOM meetings! We'll try detailing the 2-step SUPER-EASY procedure in the next Newsletter. Larry Hice suggested that we send out a notice and a link on the day of the meeting. Anna and Jerry agreed to try this for our next meeting which is scheduled for November 15, 2020.



Rosea Superba

There being no more business, the meeting was adjourned at 2:47 p.m.

Charles Simon, Secretary

<i>Date and place of meeting</i>	
November 15, 2020	Via ZOOM at 2pm
December 20, 2020	Via ZOOM at 2pm
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Monthly Meeting of the Gainesville Camellia Society

Date: Sunday, October 18, 2020, at 2pm
Place: via ZOOM (See invitation in the President's Message.)
Program: Dr. Zoom will teach us the fine points of the remote learning platform.
Program Chair: Hawser Pearce

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Gainesville Camellia Society

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Editor: Anna Langford

October 2020

President's Message



Kiku Toji

Hi GCS Members!

Happy October! Fall is in the air with daytime temperatures dropping into the high 80's, still lots of rain but no local hurricane activity so far, and daylight dropping to less than 12 hours a day! Can the end of Daylight Savings Time be far away (Nov 1)? The flowers on the Sasanquas and other early blooming camellias show that the plants are responding to the decreased daylengths. As I sit here at the breakfast table, which faces south, I know the sun is dropping to the south because sunlight is coming into the room and gradually moving more and more onto the table top. This exposes the African violets and phalaenopsis orchids on the table and in the south windows to periods of direct sunlight during the day. They seem to enjoy it.

We again have our upcoming meeting scheduled, via Zoom, at 2:00 PM, Sunday, October 18. Our Program Chairman, Hawser Pearce, has lined up a great speaker, and details are presented elsewhere in this Newsletter. Zoom is really quite an easy program to use. It takes a little getting used to and we will all improve our Zoom skills over time. My wife, Harriet, has become quite the expert because she teaches every one of her exercise classes via Zoom, several times a day, and usually 5 to 6 days a week. Most of her clients, all now Zoom experts after Zooming with Harriet since March, fall into the age range of 60 to 85 years young. Most of my Zoom meetings involve me either sitting and watching a speaker, or at some meetings, providing comments by speaking or by the chat option. So, I need more hands-on practice, too!



Autumn Sunrise



Dragon Fireball

The information needed to join the meeting is:

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Meeting ID: 823 0000 9553

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You should only need to click on the link above that begins with https and the meeting should load. I included the meeting ID and password just in case you cannot get on with the link but you probably will not need them. Sign on about 1:55 so you will be ready by 2:00.



Too many buds

Disbudding (picking off extra flower buds) should continue. Check your plants for multiple buds on individual limbs. Some of my plant have two buds on a limb but others have many more. Two buds on a limb will open (but better to have one), but sometimes all buds on limbs with multiple buds do not open. Too many buds on a plant will stress the plant and next year the plant may set fewer buds. Also generally speaking, more buds removed result in larger flowers from remaining buds. When disbudding, be sure the largest bud is left on the plant. There should not be too many pest problems this time of year with the exception of spider mites (if the weather gets dry) and tea scale. Great photos and info on the ACS site.



Disbudded

Well that's it for this month. This is a good time to plant and re-pot camellias. Always something to do. Hope everyone is staying safe and healthy and will join us for the October Zoom meeting on the 18th! See you then!

Cheers,

Jerry Hogsette, President

Minutes for GCS Meeting – September 20, 2020,

The meeting via ZOOM was called to order at 2:04 p.m. by our President, Jerry Hogsette. There were approximately 20 members digitally present.

OLD BUSINESS

There was no update to the plant sale status from our August Board Meeting.

Treasurers Report

Merry Reid reported to Jerry that there was no update to the August, 2020 Treasurer's report.

Checking total = \$2,576

Savings total = \$15,200

Overall total = \$17,776



Sandra Williams



October Affair

NEW BUSINESS

It's time to pay our annual dues. The next newsletter will show the amounts due for single and double memberships, and Merry Reid's address. We should all snail-mail checks to Merry.

Jerry reported that he's sold five air layers, and John Swanson reported that he's sold ten air layers out of 149 from last year. Jerry also reported that the Gulf Coast Camellia Society is having live meetings and plans to have a show this season.

Cathy Martin mentioned that the owner of “Landscapes Limited” in Alachua, Mike, was willing to host a 1-day Camellia plant sale on his property. John Swanson said he visited the place yesterday (9/19/20) and feels that we should stay with the Kanapaha venue. There would be considerable effort involved in moving plants to and from Alachua for a one-day sale. Jay Ellis suggested that we table this idea until the November meeting and re-evaluate. He could bring about 50 plants to a sale.

Mona Rippe reminded us that Kanapaha has cancelled the Spring Plant sale and doesn't want any events that result in mass gatherings of people. Cathy Martin said people attending any outdoor event should wear masks and stay six feet or more apart. Mona suggested we have a drive-up event where plants ordered on line could be picked up with minimal contact. John said that Wilmot is doing “take-out” Camellia sales this year.



Northern Lights



Doris Ellis Pink

Charles Simon and others discussed sending our air layer plant lists with available pictures and a link to the ACS website so people could reserve plants for purchase.

Jerry mentioned that November would be a better time to do any type of sales since the weather will be cooler and it's a better time to plant. Jay Ellis suggested that we wait until blooms are opening to improve sales.

Several members discussed blooms that have begun to open, including Yuletide, CM Gordy, Northern Lights and Kiku Toji. Other members joined in this exciting exchange!

Hawser Pearce will check for appropriate lectures on YouTube for presentation to the Club. Jerry Hogsette said he has several PowerPoint presentations that he could present.

Larry Hice shared some pictures and video clips of his visit to Selby Gardens in Sarasota. It is truly beautiful and Larry urges members to take the trip for a wonderful day!

The meeting was adjourned at 2:40 p.m. and a good time was had by all!

Charles Simon, Secretary



Elsie Jury

<i>Date and place of meeting</i>	
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Chuck Ritter
Diane Simon
John Swanson
Irma Velez
Carter Wittman

Monthly Meeting of the Gainesville Camellia Society

Date: Sunday, October 18, 2020, at 2pm
Place: via ZOOM (See invitation in the President’s Message.)
Program: “Landscaping with Camellias” by Patrick Andrews from Citra, Florida
Program Chair: Hawser Pearce

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Gainesville Camellia Society

Affiliated with the American Camellia Society

Editor: Anna Langford

September 2020

President's Message

Hi GCS Members!

This is Jerry Hogsette, your newly minted president for the upcoming camellia season. Some of you might ask, why is this guy our president again?!? For one thing, Bruce Cavey decided to step down as President on September 6, not too long after our summer Board Meeting. He did not give a reason and I have not had a chance to contact him. Just hope everything is ok with him business-wise, health-wise, and otherwise. He did a fine job and maybe one term was enough.



Granada

At the elections last May I was elected to be 1st Vice-President, I assume to be formally attached to Debbie Ellis, our new Show Chair, to offer support and advice to her when she organizes our next show. When a President decides to vacate his or her position, the 1st Vice-President automatically becomes President. So, I am President by default! No problem and I am glad to do it.

I assume that Anna will include the minutes of the summer Board meeting in the News Letter, but I will hit the high points here anyway. First, there will be no camellia show in January, 2021. All of the fall shows in the Southeast and the ACS Convention have already been cancelled and so have shows in January, 2021, including Tallahassee, Ocala, and now Gainesville. The primary reason is, of course, health. We have no idea what COVID-19 will be doing during the next 6 months. Technically unless things improve COVID-wise, Kanapaha is not permitted to host a function the size of ours in their building. This is very unfortunate, but we want all of our members to be healthy and present at our show in 2022!



Super Star

Since we will not be having a show in 2021, Charles Simon, Plant Sales Chair, suggested that we purchase plants from the members who usually supply their potted air layers to be sold at the show. Perhaps the plant list submitted by several of us should be re-circulated to the members so they can see if they would like to make a purchase. Charles sent the following email to Board members on August 23rd :

“Prices for 1-gallon air layers are \$10 unless the plant is truly a large one in a small pot (i.e., ready to plant), then the price is \$15. For most of Chuck’s and John’s plants, the pot size is 1.5 gallon and the price is \$15-\$20, depending on size. Most will be \$15 this year, and \$20 next year. Keep in mind the awesome contribution these gentlemen make to our club and buy as many plants as you like! All of the sale price is kept by the club.” Most of my (Jerry’s) plants are in the \$10 range, but I do have some varieties in larger pots. If you see something you would like to buy, please send the grower an email and then make arrangements to visit.



Ellen Daniel

All live meetings scheduled for Kanapaha will be cancelled and replaced with virtual meetings on Zoom at 2:00 PM on the third Sundays as usual. I see no conflicts with the Sunday dates through December. For those not yet using Zoom, it is very easy to do. Simply download the program and save it on your computer. Many people have been using this program to 'visit' with relatives and friends during the epidemic even if they are just down the street. Late next week you, through Anna, will receive an email containing a Zoom link. All you will have to do a few minutes ahead of meeting time is click on this link. It will cause your zoom program to open and you will be set to join the meeting. You will need a Zoom account for security reasons. Just click on the following links and videos will show you how to use Zoom: <https://youtu.be/fMUxzrgZvZQ> and https://support.zoom.us/hc/en-us/articles/360034967471-Quick-start-guide-for-new-users?mobile_site=true



One final thing is sending a memorial donation to the American Camellia Society (ACS) in honor of Charles Earnest, a long-time GCS member and friend who recently passed away. Charlie was a highly decorated Second World War Veteran who loved camellias. Since Charlie left us shortly after the summer Board meeting, we voted and agreed then to send a donation of \$150. Charles Simon, as secretary, please send our request and a check from Merry to ACS. For those who are not familiar with the ACS memorials, these are published in upcoming issues of the Camellia Journal for everyone to see, especially other ACS members who might know Charlie.

This has been a rather long President's Message so I will wrap it up quickly. It has been a stellar growing season with all of the rain. Even though the shows have been cancelled it is a good idea to disbud plants to limit the numbers of blooms that will open. The rains have leached fertilizers to some extent. This is particularly true for potted plants. I have been giving mine a 'taste' of slow release fertilizer (not a full dose) monthly to compensate for fertilizer loss. The weeds growing in the ground at the base of the pots are growing nicely as a result of the fertilizer washing through!! Here's hoping everyone remains safe and healthy and will join us for a Zoom meeting on September 20th! See you then!

Cheers,

Jerry Hogsette, President

Minutes for GCS Board of Directors Meeting –August 2, 2020

The meeting, held over the internet via ZOOM, was called to order by our President, Bruce Cavy, at 11:15 am. In digital attendance were: Bruce Cavey, Jerry Hogsette, Hawser Pearce, Cathy Martin, Allen Hyde, Patrick Andrews, John Swanson, Carter Whitman and Charles Simon. [A quorum was digitally present.]

Bruce welcomed everyone and said he had chosen the "Speaker only" ZOOM format, so the recognized speaker only will appear on the screen.

In pre-meeting chatter, John Swanson reported that of the 160 air layers under his watch, 80-100 would be ready if we have a plant sale this year (January 2021).



Sparkling Burgundy

*Daikagura*

Third is the Treasurer's report, which Merry Reid reported to Bruce:

Checking total = \$2,576
 Savings total = \$15,200
 Overall total = \$17,776

Charles Simon suggested that we not purchase plants from nurseries this year. It is unlikely that we'll have a plant sale, and if we do, we can rely on about 500 hundred air layers held by members. We probably won't be allowed to have a show this year (January 2021).

Bruce reported three issues brought up by members. First, our guest speaker talks are taking too long. We need to limit the length to 30-45 minutes. Everyone agreed.

Second, after the past plant sale, Mona Rippe reported some complaints about the poor selection of plants on Sunday. She suggested we stress the importance of coming early on Saturday for the best selection in our next advertisement. Everyone agreed this was a good idea for the potential buyers, but it may result in a period of high traffic.

*Early Autumn*



Alabama Beauty

Jerry Hogsette reported that Jay Ellis told him the Tallahassee show is cancelled.

Patrick said the ACS will have a ZOOM meeting with Matthew Israel as host. They will have a guest speaker and record the presentation. The State Program will put these types of lectures on YouTube for all to see. We can use these recordings as part of our ZOOM meeting format. Bruce said that Hawser Pearce has no guest speakers lined up, so this will be a good opportunity.

Bruce commented that meetings with six feet of separation would still put people at risk. Of special concern are our older members. We should have meetings by ZOOM this year.

Charles Simon suggested we sell air-layers to our members this year. Individuals could safely pick up plants at a designated time and open space. The Board agreed with this idea.

Patrick Andrews said all shows that he knows of are cancelled, including Ocala and the ACS convention. Ocala had registered for the show, and then cancelled.

Ocala will not order plants this year. They're sending members to Garden Gate Nursery for the next two weeks (through September 5, 2020) to order selected nursery varieties. See Judy at Garden Gate. Bruce will send out an e-blast with plant lists to all members.

Cathy Martin said we won't be allowed to have a show this year. College campuses are exploding with covid-19 infections.



Shishigashira



Mark Chason Variegated

Cathy Martin, a health care worker, spoke to us about the extreme dangers of the covid-19 virus. There is no herd immunity. The virus takes oxygen out of red blood cells, in infects the lungs where it draws oxygen out of the tiny air sacks (alveoli) , causing them to collapse, and they don't recover. This virus causes pulmonary fibrosis, and she's seeing lung transplants to save people. Cathy stressed the importance of wearing your mask, staying six feet or more apart, and washing or sanitizing your hands frequently. We need to be very careful.

Patrick Andrews asked if there was a quorum present, and Bruce replied yes.

The Board voted on and passed each of the following:

1. There will be no personal meetings this year.
2. We will have ZOOM meetings on the third Sunday of each month at 2 pm.
3. We will not have a show or public plant sale this year (January 2021).\
4. We will have limited sales of air layers to our members and to others.



Rainbow Seedling Dinh's Delight



C.M. Gordy

John Swanson told us that the Wilmot Newsletter reported they were approved for the “Camellia Trail”. Patrick reminded us that Kanapaha is also on the “Camellia Trail” and has two signs showing the designation.

Bruce will ask Irma Velez to write a letter to Alexa at Kanapaha about getting a grant.

Jerry Hogsette reported that he has 125 air layers ready for sale. John Swanson said he has about 100 ready for sale. Bruce will contact Chuck and Bev Ritter and find out if any of their air layers are ready for sale this year.

John Swanson asked if all of our meeting dates have been determined. If not, we need to set dates. There won't be any conflicts with use of the Kanapaha facilities since we'll be on ZOOM. Bruce will look at potential conflicts, and then set the meeting dates.

After the vote, there were some additional comments by those digitally present.

Bruce commented that for our 2022 show, volunteers need to show up at the start and stay until the end. People faded away last year, leaving a skeleton crew to do all the take-down work. People need to stay A to Z.



Sandra Williams



Edna Bass Variegated

Jerry said he's fertilizing his potted camellias monthly because of all the rain.

Patrick will send Tommy's (County Line Nursery) plant list out this week. People can email Garden Gate with their order and pay retail when they pick up the plants. Bruce will confirm with Judy at Garden Gate that GCS members can also do this.

Charles Simon reminded us that GCS is flush with funds and should be generous to other clubs if they become financially stressed.

Bruce Cavey adjourned the meeting at 11:56.

Charles Simon, Secretary

Post board meeting comment by the Secretary: On September 6, 2020 Bruce Cavey resigned his position as Vice President, Jerry Hogsette assumes the Presidency for the remainder of Bruce's term.

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 Jay Ellis
 Alan Hyde
 Cathy Martin
 Bev Ritter
 Chuck Ritter
 Diane Simon
 John Swanson
 Irma Velez
 Carter Wittman

Monthly Meeting of the Gainesville Camellia Society

Date: Sunday, September 20, 2020, at 2pm
Place: via ZOOM (See invitation in the President’s Message.)

The Gainesville Camellia Society meets at 2 pm on the third Sunday of each month from September through May via ZOOM. Any changes to meeting dates, times, or venues are posted in this newsletter.